

**For Immediate Release  
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**DCR BREAKS GROUND IN PHASE 1 OF  
SCUSSET BEACH RENOVATION PROJECT**

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, along with representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers, the Town of Sandwich, and state legislators Sen. Therese Murray and Rep. Jeffrey Perry, celebrated the beginning of work on Phase 1 of the Scusset Beach Facility Renovation project today with a groundbreaking ceremony at the reservation.

Phase 1, which is being financed by \$700,000 of Supplemental Budget funds, includes renovation of the Fish Pier Building into administrative offices, interpretive space, meeting rooms, and public bathrooms. When renovations are complete, the building will function as the new headquarters for the reservation.

“I am pleased that these improvements have the public in mind. These facilities at Scusset Beach will be a great asset for Bourne and Sandwich residents and visitors alike,” said Senator Therese Murray, Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. “Beaches like Scusset are what make living or vacationing on Cape Cod unique. They are part of our lives, and any improvements will just enhance the Cape Cod beach experience.”

Scusset Beach was first leased from Army Corps of Engineers to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1954, and is a popular recreation site for swimming, camping, and saltwater fishing, drawing nearly 560,000 visitors in the last fiscal year alone. DCR worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and a private consultant to develop a Comprehensive Plan for renovation of Scusset Beach State Reservation’s facilities. It is DCR’s intention to make the entire state reservation more friendly to these users and to undertake some ecological restoration that would include dune restoration and habitat preservation. Upcoming phases of the \$2.5 million project will include benches, a bike rack, gathering areas, plantings, an accessible playground, picnic area, a group pavilion and several other shade structures.

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